

### Meet the Faculty



**HOLLIS MACKINTOSH HEID** (Week 1 Guest Artist, Ballet) began her dance training with Delia Foley, A.R.A.D. at Ballet Arts in Clark Mills, NY. She went on to attend Butler University, performing lead roles with the Butler Ballet and the Indianapolis Opera before graduating in 2002 with a B.F.A. in Dance Performance with a secondary major in Arts Administration. While at Butler, she also had the opportunity to dance with the Chamber Dance Project in NYC and the Georgia National Ballet in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. Following graduation, she joined Louisville Ballet as a company member and the faculty of the Louisville Ballet School as the Outreach Coordinator. She went on to perform with the Cincinnati Ballet, the Augusta Ballet and Northern Plains Ballet dancing roles in notable works by Frederick Franklin, Lar Lubovitch, Peter Powlus, Merce Cunningham, Andre Prokovsky, Val Caniparoli, Ron Cunningham, and George Balanchine. Ms. Mackintosh Heid became a certified Pilates instructor in 2007. As Director of Northern

Plains Dance (NPD), Ms. Mackintosh Heid has brought new life to the organization and is proud to have the opportunity to share her passion for dance with the community. Over the past nine seasons Ms. Mackintosh Heid has directed, produced and provided choreography and staging for 27 productions for Northern Plains Dance as well as creating choreography for the University of Mary and Bismarck State College and staging classical work for North Dakota Ballet. Under Ms. Mackintosh Heid's direction, NPD's annual event *Choreographers' Showcase* has become a highlight of the performance season, blending live music, visual arts and North Dakota choreographers into an eclectic evening that celebrates all of the arts of North Dakota. Ms. Mackintosh Heid has also lent her costuming talents to the productions of NPD, designing and constructing the costumes for all the productions for the last 10 years. While maintaining a full teaching and choreography schedule, Ms. Mackintosh Heid has initiated numerous programs through NPD to benefit the community, such as the Discover Dance Scholarship Fund, All Access Dance, and NPD in the Classroom.



**JESSICA DANSER** (Week 2 Guest Artist, Ballet), a native New Yorker, was a 5-time Fellowship recipient at the Ailey School and holds a BFA cum laude in Dance Composition from SUNY Purchase. She graduated salutatorian from Talent Unlimited High School and was a member of the Young Dancemaker's Company. Jessica has also studied on scholarship at the Graham and Limon schools. She has had the privilege of being mentored by masters such as Kazuko Hirabayashi, Mary Barnett, and Neil Greenberg.

As a dance educator, Jessica is on ballet faculty at the Ailey School and Professional Performing Arts High School, and has worked with dance students in the public schools, including Talent Unlimited, Frank Sinatra School of the Arts, Theater Arts Performing Company, and Lehman High School. She also does residency work in elementary schools throughout the NYC with Notes in Motion Outreach Dance Theater. She is an American Ballet Theater certified teacher and has completed study in Horton pedagogy.

As a choreographer, Jessica received the prestigious Bronx Recognizes Its Own award in 2007, the first of many recognitions from the Bronx Council on the Arts. Her work has been produced at numerous festivals in the tri-state area since 2001. As a performer, Jessica was an original member of NOA: Nelly von Bommel Dance Company. She has also performed repertoire by Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Ethel Winter, Donald Byrd, George Balanchine, and Christopher Huggins, to name a few. She joined Arthur Aviles' Typical Theater in 2011 and has performed his works at BAAD!, the Institute for Contemporary Art in Boston, and 92nd Street Y.



**MAGGIE PELTON** (Modern) grew up in the New Jersey Ballet Company. Her studies expanded to other disciplines while attending the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and the Martha Graham and Jose Limon schools in New York City. After receiving her BFA in dance from the Juilliard School and a scholarship from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, she was asked to join Ailey II which performed all across the United States and the Caribbean. Ms. Pelton had the great honor of being the last female chosen by Alvin Ailey himself to join his first company, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre which tours internationally. While living in southern California and now Nashville, Maggie has danced in television commercials and music videos and has gone on to teach, choreograph, and act as a consultant for dance and fitness in various projects. Currently she is an adjunct professor at Belmont University and faculty member of Cookeville Leisure Services, Franklin Athletic Club, and YMCA of Middle TN. She continues to serve as a guest artist teaching master classes and dance workshops. Maggie is certified in many group fitness disciplines but her passion lies with Zumba! She is kept very busy at home with her children Jonah 14, Levi 12 and Mikyah 9.



**LAUREL DESMARAIS** (Pilates) As a young dancer training at Boston Ballet, Laurel suffered a herniated disk and had to undergo surgery. Barely able to walk her prospects of continuing with dance looked grim. After her surgery a majority of her physical therapy was Pilates based rehab. The results were remarkable, bringing her back to full functionality with more strength and flexibility than before the injury occurred. This experience shaped Laurel's motivation to become a Polestar Pilates instructor and then to become certified in Polestar's Rehabilitative Pilates Program, a certification level usually available only to physical therapists. She then went on to work alongside physical therapist Nelly Lugo-Larcheveque, assisting in designing Pilates programs for post rehab clients. Laurel has also continued to pursue her dance career and was asked to develop a Pilates curriculum at the Hartt School Community Division for dancers to increase strength and flexibility to minimize injuries. Laurel received national accreditation through Pilates Method Alliance as well as her RYT Vinyassa Yoga certification.



**NOMALANGA ENIAFE** (Afro-Caribbean) Nomalanga teaches movements based upon traditional African and Caribbean dance forms. Her style and class regime is designed to bring forth new life and new energy through the power of rhythm and dance. Her students develop a new consciousness about themselves and traditional African culture. Nomalanga has traveled to Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio and Kentucky to teach and perform her art.



**TONY PERRIN** (Theater Dance), a Los Angeles native, started his dance training at the age of seven. After working in the television industry during his formative years, Tony headed east to New York where he studied at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. While earning his BFA he worked with such choreographers as Doug Varone, Douglas Becker and Joy Kellman, to name a few. In addition he studied with Pennsylvania Ballet's Rock School. Upon graduating from NYU in 1999, Tony had the privilege of working with the Michael Mao Dance Company, the North Eastern Ballet Company and as an Artist-In-Residence at The Yard on Martha's Vineyard. After taking some time off from the dance community to pursue a career in the fashion industry, Tony is excited to once again be dancing and teaching. He looks forward to learning and growing as a dancer, and to bringing his energy, creativity and insights to dancers of all ages!

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